



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

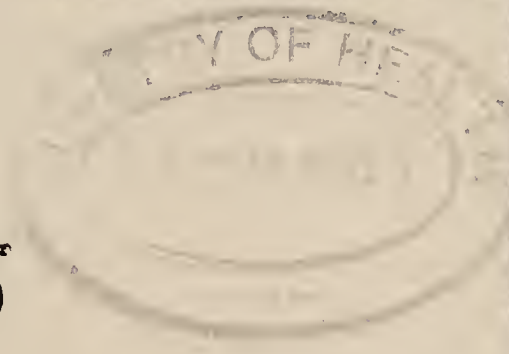
OF THE

Stafford Rural District,

For the Year 1925.

STAFFORD:

Printed by R. W. Hourd & Son, 22, Mill Street.



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REPORT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford Rural
District Council.*

EAST GATE,

STAFFORD,

APRIL, 1926.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the year 1925.

The Ministry of Health has issued instructions with regard to annual reports, to the effect that a full report is required once in five years, and the present report is based on the Ministry of Health's requirements, and arranged according to their schedule.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA (acres)	54,465
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POPULATION — Census 1921, 11,070. This included over 2,000 troops then quartered at Brocton. Therefore, for the purpose of this report, the population has been estimated by the Registrar General to the middle of 1924 as	9,201
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Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The ground is undulatory. Although much of the ground is of a low-lying character, it is free from swamps.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES, Estimated (1921)	1,896
RATEABLE VALUE	£116,765
REDUCED ASSESSABLE VALUE	£73,529
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE	£306
POOR RELIEF	Included in Stafford Union.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is Agriculture, a minority being residents, whose work takes them into the County Town, where the chief industries are Engineering and Shoe Manufacturing.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		To'al	M.	F.	
BIRTHS	{ Legitimate...	165	80	85	} Birth Rate 17'9 per 1,000 of the population.
	{ Illegitimate	6	2	4	
DEATHS	... ..	97	54	43	} Death Rate 10'5 per 1,000 of the population.

NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF, CHILDBIRTH :—

From Sepsis...1. From Other Causes...Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—16

RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS :—1925, 36; 1924, 70; 1923, 28; 1922, 93.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil	...	in 1925.
„ „ Whooping Cough, Nil	...	„
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), 1	...	„
„ „ Influenza, 3	...	„
„ „ Encephalitis Lethargica, 2	...	„
„ „ Cancer, 11	...	„
„ „ Pneumonia, 4	...	„
„ „ Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, 3...	...	„

The local County Infirmary applies relief in all branches of Medicine and Surgery, both to in-patients and out-patients who are unable to pay for such treatment.

There is no outstanding cause of sickness or invalidity which has been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

HOSPITALS, ETC.—There are none within the district, but the inhabitants avail themselves of the facilities of such institutions provided in the adjoining County town.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—In 1912 an arrangement was made with the Stafford Corporation, by which all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever occurring in the Rural District should be treated in the Borough Isolation Hospital. The Corporation enlarged their premises to provide for such cases, and the arrangements work satisfactorily.

SMALL POX.—There is an arrangement by which the Rural District Council is able to send Small Pox cases to the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital.

OTHER INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION.—There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, or illegitimate infants in the district, but the Stafford Union provides Cottage Homes, to which the residents of the Rural District are entitled to send homeless children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—(a) *For Infectious Cases.*—The Borough Authorities undertake to remove these cases to the Isolation Hospital, and have now a properly equipped Motor Ambulance.

(b) *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases*—None.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—There are none in the district, but for tuberculosis the residents avail themselves of the services of the Tuberculosis Officer at the Stafford Clinic.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Medical Officer of Health (part time). Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—The Midwives, of whom there are about eight in the district, and who are supplied by the County Council and under their supervision, also perform the duties of District Nurses.

CHEMICAL WORK.—Bacteriological specimens are sent direct to Wolverhampton by the practitioners concerned, and also by the Medical Officer of Health, as occasion arises.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of cost to practitioners in the district, and they are also paid a small fee for its injection into the patients or contacts.

Adoptive Acts in Force in the District.

- 1.—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.
Adopted 27th August, 1887.
- 2.—Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889.
- 3.—Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Adopted 11th January, 1913.
- 4.—Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (Part 3).
Adopted 3rd August, 1895.
- 5.—Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases have been remarkably few. The diphtheria antitoxin is supplied to all practitioners free of cost, who freely avail themselves of its use, both to infected cases and contacts.

There have been some five cases of Encephalitis lethargica during the last four years.

Pneumonia has been generally notified.

The practitioners in the district have made full use of the privilege accorded to them of having bacteriological specimens examined by the County Analyst.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

There have been no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Every case of infectious disease occurring in schools in the district is very fully notified to me by the head teacher.

Only one case of locally contracted Anthrax has occurred during five years.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1925.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	9	9	Nil
Diphtheria	13	5	1
Enteric Fever (including ... Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	5	Nil	4
Other Diseases generally noti- fiable specify disease) —			
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	Nil	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0
1
5
10	1	...	...	1
15	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
20
25	1
35
45	2	...	...
55
65 and upwards
Totals	1	...	...	1	3	...	2

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.

ARTICLE 3.—Tuberculous Employees in the Milk Trade:—Observations are being kept on such cases, and one case, although not strictly coming within the restriction, was advised to restrain from contact with the milk.

ARTICLE 5.—None.

ARTICLE 6.—None.

Speaking generally, all cases of Tuberculosis come under the care of the Tuberculosis Officer for the Stafford Borough, who takes entire direction of the treatment.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.—The District generally is dependent upon wells, but part of the following five parishes are supplied with tap water laid on from the Borough:—

1.—BERKSWICH.

Tap water supplied to approximately 269 houses. Population estimated 808.

2.—BROCTON.

Tap water supplied to 161 houses. Population estimated 643.

3.—TIXALL.

Tap water supplied to 14 houses. Population estimated 56.

4.—CASTLE CHURCH.

Tap water supplied to 206 houses. Population estimated 549.

5.—COLWICH.

Tap water supplied to Shugboro' Hall. Population 30. The Convent has its own pumping plant, which supplies 50 persons. Tap water by gravitation is supplied from a private pumping works to some 110 houses, with population of 330.

YARLET, MARSTON AND WHITGREAVE.

The Stafford County Council supplies some forty small-holdings and houses with water from their own pumping plant at Yarlet. There are several farms supplying farms.

Two complaints were received from premises near Stafford, and the wells belonging thereto were closed, and tap water from the Borough laid on.

During the year twelve samples of water were analyzed, nine of which were found fit for use.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As this is under the control of the Stafford Drainage Board, which is doing excellent work, no action has been taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Mainly the drainage is to covered cesspits or septic tanks, with filters or soakaway pits, and there are very few complaints.

The Station and Cottages at Milford and Brocton are drained to a septic tank and rotary filter.

Walton village is fairly well drained to a septic tank and underground filter.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Approximately there are 731 water closets, 1015 pan closets and 250 privies. No definite policy has been followed but owners and occupiers have been advised to substitute pans for privies.

SCAVENGING.

Ash tips are provided in 6 centres:—Berkswich, Colwich, Great Haywood, Little Tixall, Weston, and Hopton, and with the exception of the one at Berkswich, which is a sand hole, they are periodically cleansed by the Council.

Destruction by burning is carried out in many parts of the district.

The cleansing of cesspits, earth closets, privies and ashpits is carried out by each occupier.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Statutory Notices served during the year.—6.

Houses Inspected under 1910 Act	51.	42 in fair order, 9 under notice.
„ „ „ 1875 Act	85.	34 to repair. 12 under notice.
Drainage Complaints	85.	Attended to, except 10.
Pigsties Complaints	3.	Cleansed.
Slaughter Houses	133.	Inspections.
Farms	201.	Inspections. Cowsheds im- Improved 39
Butchers' Shops	34.	Inspections.
Grocers' Shops	26.	Inspections.
Pig Killing attendances	9.	
New Privies Built	6.	
Cases of Tuberculosis Attended ...	13.	
Samples of Water taken	12.	
Slaughter Houses Newly licensed	2.	
Cases of Diphtheria attended ...	12.	
Cases of Scarlet Fever attended ...	8.	

New Coppers put in	...	...	6.	
Sewers Repaired	...	..	...	4.
Yards Repaired	...	...	...	18.
New Sinks	...	...	...	7.
Pumps out of order	...	...	7.	All repaired.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

One complaint was received of the chimney of a factory at Weston, and prompt action was taken.

PREMISES AND OCCUATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There is one Knackers' Yard so controlled.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

One Knackers' Yard, which had become a nuisance to the district was closed by order of the Council.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools of Berkswich, at Walton, Ricker-scote, and Hyde Lea, are supplied with tap water from the Stafford Borough Mains. The Marston School from their own pumping plant at Yarlet. All the other Schools depend on wells.

In cases of infectious disease arising, the infected scholars are promptly isolated, and the schools disinfected when necessary.

Housing.

1.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Fair.

2.—EXTENT OF SHORTAGE AND MEASURES TAKEN TO MEET SUCH.

There is a great shortage of houses, which is being only imperfectly met by the Housing Subsidy Scheme and private enterprise.

It is anticipated that quite 500 houses will be built within the Rural District by the British Re-inforced Concrete Co., whose works in Stafford will shortly be completed. These houses are intended, however, to supply the needs of their own workpeople.

3.—OVERCROWDING.

There is a certain amount of overcrowding in the district. There was one case reported during 1925, and the family have now left the district.

4.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(a) *General Standing of Housing in Area* :—There is a large number of cottages let at very low rents, and they are in a fair condition, and kept clean. Owners are being advised to build additions for the purpose of giving accommodation for sink and suitable larders, etc.

(b) The general character of defects found are dilapidated roofs, chimneys, want of guttering, no damp coursing, want of a sink, paving of yards and general repairs.

(c) Most of the owners in this district are anxious, and have taken steps to repair their property without raising the rents, but they are cumbered by years of past mismanagement and neglect. It is estimated that quite £4,000 was spent last year on small property.

The tenant, of course, is a great factor, large families and small means help to weaken the desire to render to the premises its normal due.

GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER :—

(a) Public Health Acts.—None.

(b) Housing Acts.—Notice is served on the owner requiring him to execute certain works in a given time, and failing compliance, the Council may either undertake to do the work, or issue a Closing Order, as the condition of the property may necessitate. Closing Orders were issued in respect of two cottages during the year.

THE CHIEF DIFFICULTIES FOUND IN REMEDYING UNFITNESS.

1. The reluctance of skilled workers to undertake repairs, new work keeping them employed.

2.—Strain on owners where cottages are small with low rents, *i.e.*, the provision of sinks, in many cases, would require an addition to cottage.

3.—Special measures by constant inspection and reminding of owners of defects has been very successful.

There is also a marked improvement in the use of property by tenant.

4.—There are no back to back houses.

The conditions *re* Water Supply are fairly satisfactory. Improvements *re* closet accommodation are being made to obtain one closet to each cottage, and with regard to refuse disposal in several parishes, there are Refuse Tips, periodically emptied by contract, but in more scattered areas the tenants burn their refuse.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no unhealthy areas within the district.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS. AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, etc.

There are bye-laws relating to buildings, but none relating to houses let in lodgings, etc.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

During 1925, the Council closed one dilapidated cottage at Weston, and three within the Parish of Stowe. The latter have now been repaired and made fit for habitation. The Cottage at Weston is to be demolished. One Cottage at Haughton has been demolished by the free will of the owner.

The provision of sinks, and their proper use, has been advised by this Council for the past 20 years.

Water Closets are advised where owner can make proper or adequate provision for drainage. Only one complaint of Water Closet being stopped up was made during 1925.

Tenants in scattered areas are constantly being advised to burn their refuse.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	32
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts ...	23
(i) By the Local Authority	None
(ii) By other bodies or persons	9

1.—Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	136
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	51
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	9

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	34
	12 under notice.

3.—Action under Statutory Powers

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
	5 under notice.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	4

B. — Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	22
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders... ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	5
3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—For some years there has been steady improvement in the condition of farm premises—namely, the lighting, draining, and general cleanliness of cowsheds, with an arrangement of the floor section to assist the Farmer in keeping his cows clean. Each cow-keeper has been interviewed personally, and Owners have responded in structural alterations, anxious to assist the personal efforts of the cow-keeper.

The Cowsheds and Dairies are regularly inspected.

(b) TUBERCULOUS MILK AND TUBERCULOUS CATTLE.—There has been no complaint *re* tuberculous milk. The cattle are surrendered to the County Council Officials and destroyed.

(c) NUMBER OF LICENCES GRANTED FOR SALE OF MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.—None.

(d) REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION OF RETAILERS, OR OF LICENCES FOR GRADED MILK.—None.

(e) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF GRADED AND OTHER MILK. —No action has been taken under this head.

MEAT.—Meat inspection is carried out as far as possible at the time of killing, the butcher having previously given notice of slaughtering for certain days of the week. The marking of meat is not carried out.

There were a few surrenders of diseased meat during the year, which was promptly destroyed at the Stafford Borough Destructor.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 — There are no stalls in the District, but the shops are inspected periodically, and are kept clean and covered in. There is no public slaughter-house in the District.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered ...	12	12	6
Licensed ...	—	—	2

OTHER FOODS — There are about 30 small general shops in the District, also cheese-making premises and two bake-houses. These are inspected periodically. There were no complaints regarding tinned foods, and no discoloured tins found in the shops. The cheese-making is carried out in a cleanly manner, and the two bake-houses are well lighted and ventilated.

There were no cases of food poisoning in the area during the year.

HERBERT MARSON,

M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health,

